

STATE OF ARIZONA
MILITARY DEPARTMENT
OFFICE OF THE ADJUTANT GENERAL
747 WEST VAN BUREN STREET
PHOENIX, ARIZONA

C O P Y

FEF/ew

19 October 1951

Lt General Joseph H. Swing
Commanding, Sixth Army
Presidio of San Francisco, California

Dear General Swing:

As this matter concerns to a great extent the future of the training area of Fort Huachuca, it is deemed advisable by the Corps of Engineers' representative here, that the following matter should be brought to your attention.

As you know, the Artillery Range at Fort Huachuca--because of exchanges made between the Arizona State Land Department and the Department of the Interior--now shows title to several thousands of acres located within the range vested with the Department of the Interior, subject to such disposition as they desire to make of this land.

This morning the Bureau of Land Management telephoned and informed the undersigned that some 7000 acres listed under what is termed Phoenix Serial Number 086149, that had been requested for use of the National Guard on a permit or lease basis, was now up for either continuing lease or permit to the National Guard, or would be rented by lease contract to cattle owners for the purpose of grazing livestock upon this particular tract consisting of over 7000 acres. The Bureau of Land Management, being an agency of the Department of the Interior, can negotiate such an instrument. This would mean, therefore, that the use of the Artillery Range would be hampered considerably for training purposes if the future training for troops stationed at Fort Huachuca would have need of said Artillery Range.

Under date 26 January 1951, the then Acting Secretary of the Air Force, Mr. McCone, requested but 4000 acres of the 32,000 acre Artillery Range. As of this date, therefore, Fort Huachuca has the right to use only 4000 acres of this large artillery range.

As the National Guard of Arizona does not have any material interest in the Fort Huachuca Artillery Range other than periodic use of the range during summer field training encampments, this office therefore should not take action that would interfere with the Department of the Interior plans for use of the Artillery Range. On the other hand, this office believes that the entire Artillery Range--regardless of whether some of the land is under State title or under Department of the Interior title--should by Department of the Army and the Department of the Interior mutual agreements, be made into one package for the use of the armed forces, specifically the Department of the Army.

USFH-00002231

LTR: Col Fraser, AGO As, to General Swing, re Fort Huachuca Artillery Range,
dated 19 October 1951

The Real Estate Division of the Corps of Engineers cannot take any action to save the 7000 acres for use of the Department of the Army, without being requested to do so. And as stated before, the National Guard of Arizona--no longer having control of Fort Huachuca--should not, except in the interest of national defense, attempt to continue the permit they now hold for the 7000 acres.

The Bureau of Land Management is pressing the National Guard of Arizona for an answer as to whether or not the National Guard desires the permit to be renewed. It will be appreciated if you will advise this office if Sixth Army is interested in acquiring this particular parcel of land; and if it is desired by Sixth Army that the National Guard make application for renewing said permit in order subject land can be made available for Army use.

FOR THE ADJUTANT GENERAL:

FRANK E. FRASER
Colonel Inf-IGD
Executive Officer

cc: CO, Fort Huachuca, Arizona
Phx RE Fld Ofc, CE, Phoenix, Ariz
Atty Gen'l of Arizona, Phoenix, Ariz